

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) A stabilizing device for stabilizing a slit fluid jet having surfaces, said stabilizing device comprising:

- a first flat plate; and
- a second flat plate, wherein
 - said first flat plate and said second flat plate oppose each other with a prescribed gap in between,
 - said first flat plate has an opposing surface that is smooth, and
 - said second flat plate has a network structure with a plurality of crossed grooves that are crossed like a letter x.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) A stabilizing device according to claim 2, wherein at an outlet of said network structure, said plurality of crossed grooves are disposed such that fluids passing therethrough are merged.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Canceled)